other educational institutions including the Air Command and Staff College, the Institute of Aerospace Safety Engineering at the University of Southern California, the Defense Systems Management College, and Harvard University.

After completing his navigator training, Major General Phillips attended KC–135 combat crew training and subsequently served as an instructor navigator. He flew regular combat missions over Vietnam as a KC–135 navigator. Subsequently, Major General Phillips graduated from pilot training with top honors and worked as a T–37 instructor pilot. His responsibilities continued to become more complex and challenging as his Air Force career progressed. Major General Phillips has held many assignments in the logistics management field, including positions at the Pentagon and several Air Force bases. Perhaps one of his most fascinating assignment was as a logistics systems analyst at the Doshan Tappeh Air Base in Iran during 1978 to 1979. Major General Phillips had the misfortune of being held hostage for 3 weeks when the Ayatollah Khomeini overthrew the Shah of Iran. He was only released after the United States recognized the Khomeini regime.

Major General Phillips is an experienced pilot, navigator and instructor pilot with more than 3,000 flying hours, including 300-plus combat flying hours over Vietnam. He has received several major military awards and decorations; some of these include the Distinguished Service Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, and the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm. Despite the tremendous duties of overseeing the Sacramento ALC, Major General Phillips participates in a number of community activities. He serves on the board of directors of the Sacramento Urban League Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, Ballet, and is the chairman of the local Combined Federal Campaign charity drive. Major General Phillips and his wife Blanche are the parents of three children and grandparents of two.

Major General Phillips is keenly aware of the struggle that African American military officers and pilots before him have faced. In recognition of this, he helps maintain their spirit and the important history of their efforts through his service as the vice president of the Tuskegee Airmen Inc.

I join my colleagues today in honoring Maj. Gen. John F. Phillips for his more than 30 years of distinguished and dedicated service to the Air Force and our Nation. I also congratulate him on his Department of Defense appointment and wish him continued success as he embarks on a new career.

## NEWBERRY WOMEN'S CLUB CELEBRATES 100TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 7, 1995*

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, it is, indeed, an honor for me to bring to the attention of the U.S. House of Representatives and its membership an event that occurred just last week in my congressional district, the First District of Michigan. On Thursday, August 31, 1995, the Newberry Women's Club, of Newberry, MI, celebrated its 100th anniversary. I congratulate all members of this outstanding organization, both past and present, on reaching this milestone.

First organized in 1895 as the Bay View Reading Circle, the small group of 13 women and men met to discuss issues of the day as well as matters relating to history and literature.

The organization continued to grow and in 1914 joined the State Federation and drafted its first constitution and by-laws. With more members came more involved discussions of various topics of interest to the group including art, music, education, period furniture. Individual members also composed music, wrote poetry and even wrote and produced plays that received recognition through the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

Over the years, the club changed its name to the Newberry Women's Club and involved itself in many social, civic and charitable projects including the organization of a club for girls, assistance in health clinics, contributions to the Bay Cliff Health Camp, filing Christmas and Easter baskets for the needy and even providing an arts and nursing scholarship that is awarded annually to a Newberry High School graduating senior.

As the club's second century begins, their primary focus centers on education, the arts, public affairs, home life, conservation and international affairs. While their interests have certainly broadened, they have not forgotten their origins and the primary purpose of the original club.

Mr. Speaker, it is through organizations like the Newberry Women's Club that our heritage is maintained while at the same time allowing us to look forward to meet the needs of people. I congratulate the Newberry Women's Club and wish them well in their next 100 years.

## CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF MATUSALA TEWOLDE-KUFLOM

### HON. JACK FIELDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 7, 1995*

Mr. FIELDS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, with the crush of business leading up to the August district work period, I was remiss in not bringing to the attention of the House a very joyous bit of news that I know we all can appreciate and celebrate. Belatedly, I want to take a moment today to congratulate two fine individuals in Fairfax, VA on the birth of their son in May.

On May 19, Tewolde T. ''Ted'' Kuflom and his wife, Tsehainesh Ugbazghi-Adkeme became the proud parents of their first child, Matusala Tewolde-Kuflom.

''Ted'' and his wife immigrated to the United States from Eritrea in September 1988 and have worked hard since then to become successful small business owners. For the last 5 years, they have operated the D–11 Market, a corner grocery store located in northeast Washington, DC.

Their hard work and determination to build a better life for themselves, and their deep love for their son, ensure that Matusala will have what we want for all children: a loving and secure home life and a chance to fully partake in the American dream.

I salute ''Ted'' and wife, and I know you join with me, Mr. Speaker, in congratulating them on the healthy arrival of their son, Matusala Tewolde-Kuflom.

## MOLECULAR BIOLOGY MAY REDUCE RISK OF BIRTH DEFECTS

### HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 7, 1995*

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, we have all been aware of the problems associated with birth—the possibility that an infant is born with certain defects—but up to now, we have not had a full understanding of why a child dies prematurely or fails to develop to its full human potential. Recently, at the 39th briefing before the Congressional Biomedical Research Caucus, Dr. James L. Mills, chief of the pediatric epidemiology section at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, described incredible advances in identifying causes of birth defects and their possible prevention.

I believe that his remarks will indicate the remarkable advances made in molecular biology at the National Institutes of Health.

BIRTH DEFECTS

(James L. Mills, M.D.)

It is a great pleasure for me to have the opportunity to come and share my enthusiasm for birth defects research with you today. Had I been asked to give this talk in 1980, when I first started doing birth defects research, I would have done so with considerable trepidation. The fact is, most birth defects research in those days was rather pedestrian. It was good work but not exciting. It consisted of classifying and describing various birth defects. We might have been fighting a war on cancer then, but we were hardly fighting a skirmish on birth defects.

Today, the situation has changed dramatically. Dr. Holmes has already pointed out that we have expanded our understanding of how birth defects occur tremendously. We have better strategies for identifying new causes of birth defects, and we are able to identify families at risk more accurately than we ever could before.

I will discuss several areas of research that have blossomed over the last decade. First, how biochemical abnormalities cause birth defects; next, how factors in the embryo's environment interact with intrinsic (genetic) factors within us to produce birth defects; and finally, how our understanding of these biochemical, environmental and genetic factors can lead to preventing birth defects.

First, I would like to speak about how biochemical abnormalities in mothers cause birth defects in their offspring. I have chosen as an example work done by us at NIH with collaborators at five major universities in the Diabetes in Early Pregnancy Study. Women who have diabetes at the time that they become pregnant have a greatly increased risk of having a child with a birth defect. Heart, brain and spinal cord defects are just a few of the many birth defects that infants of diabetic mothers are at increased risk of experiencing. We have learned that this increased risk is related to how well the mother is controlling her diabetes early in pregnancy. The better her control, the lower the risk. We also made a little bonus discovery. Diabetic women are also at increased risk for miscarriage. We were pleased to discover that a diabetic woman can also reduce